

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were pending in this application. All of the pending claims are rejected.

Claims 1 and 10 are currently amended. Claims 6 through 9 are now cancelled. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-5 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2001/0020275 (Jari) in view of US 2002/0166070 (Mualem). With regard to claims 1 and 10, the Examiner relies on Mualem for the limitation of updating the security associations (SAs) in response to memory corruption, and Jari for the other limitations. As described in the Background of this application at page 2, a Group Controller and Key Server controls distribution of SAs to members of a secure group. The members of the secure group then use the SAs to communicate with one another. As described in the last paragraph of the Background at page 3, loss of SAs by the Key Server requires each member of the secure group to re-register and receive new SAs. Because the combination of references proposed by the Examiner fails to solve this problem in the manner recited in the claims, Applicant respectfully traverses.

As described in paragraph [0032] and illustrated in Fig. 1, the security gateway (2) of Jari uses a SA to communicate with a mobile user. Consequently, the security gateway (2) of Jari is a member of a secure group. While it may be useful for a member of a secure group to maintain SA backup in non-volatile memory, this does not solve the problem of loss or corruption of SAs in volatile memory of a key server. Further, while the rekeying of individual members of a secure group may be a nuisance, it will typically have less of an impact than rekeying of all members of all secure groups supported by a Key Server. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to emphasize that it is the key server that maintains a copy of the SAs in non-volatile memory rather

than a member of the secure group. Therefore, the combination described by the Examiner fails to teach the invention recited in claims 1 and 10.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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